AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A chemically modified double stranded nucleic acid molecule, wherein:

a) the molecule comprises a sense strand and a separate antisense strand, each strand having one or more pyrimidine nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;

b) each strand is 19 to 29 nucleotides in length;

c) the ~~first~~ sense strand, ~~second~~ antisense strand, or both ~~first and second~~ strands ~~of the siNA~~ comprise two or more nucleotides each having a Northern conformation modification; and

d) at least two of said modifications are different from each other.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises one or more ribonucleotides.

21. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein said Northern conformation modifications are selected from the group consisting of locked nucleic acid (LNA); 2'-methoxyethoxy; 2'-methyl-thio-ethyl, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-deoxy-2'-chloro, 2'-azido, 2'-O-trifluoromethyl, 2'-O-ethyl-trifluoromethoxy, 2'-O-difluoromethoxy-ethoxy, 4'-thio and 2'-O-methyl modifications.

22. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends.

23. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein the antisense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 3'-end.

24. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 22, wherein said terminal cap moiety comprises an abasic moiety.

25. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 23, wherein said terminal cap moiety comprises an abasic moiety.

26. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 24, wherein said abasic moiety comprises an inverted deoxyabasic moiety.

27. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 25, wherein said abasic moiety comprises an inverted deoxyabasic moiety.

28. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein any of the pyrimidine nucleotides in the sense strand are 2'-O-methyl pyrimidine nucleotides.

29. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein any of the purine nucleotides in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy purine nucleotides.

30. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein any of the pyrimidine nucleotides in the sense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides.

31. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein any of the pyrimidine nucleotides in said antisense strand are 2'-deoxy-2'-fluor pyrimidine nucleotides.

32. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 18, wherein any of the purine nucleotides in said antisense strand are 2'-O-methyl purine nucleotides.

33. (Previously presented) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 18 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.